

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2490

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 2238

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJECT: FY 1976 TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

B. STATE 48501; B. STATE 52216

1. POST APPRECIATES PROBLEMS POSED BY CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE ON COMMERCE TO REDUCE FUNDING AND POSITIONS IN EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAMS. OUR OBSERVATIONS ON THIS ACTION WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE UNDOUBTEDLY PUT FORTH BY COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROGRAMS.

2. POST, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS TO WATCH FIRST-HAND AS OTHER COUNTRIES' TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS CONTINUE. AS BUDGETARY CONDITIONS IMPROVE ABIDJAN WILL BE MOST RECEPTIVE TO REINSTATING TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMS FOR WHICH FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

3. MEANWHILE, ABIDJAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN NAMES OF COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN OTHER TRADE PROMOTION EVENTS IN AFRICA TO SUGGEST STOPOVERS WHERE MARKET CONDITIONS WARRANT.

4. REFTEL B TELECOMMUNICATIONS SALES SEMINAR WILL BE TOO LATE FOR IVORY COAST IN VIEW OF WORLD BANK ACTIVITY IN IVORIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IF, HOWEVER, MISSION INCLUDES SYSTEMS USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESOURCE DETECTION BY SATELLITE ABIDJAN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING.

SMITH

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